THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAM-BHAI PATEL): (a) As on 1.2.94 there were 9 "no source villages' facing acute shortage of safe drinking water in Gujarat.

(b) All these villages and partially Covered villages/habitations are likely to be provided safe drinking water under the Minimum Needs Programme and Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission including Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) The amount allocated to the State under ARWSP including for Water Supply to Saurashtra and Kutch and piped water supply during 1993-94 is Rs. 6.56 crore. Separate amount is not provided on schemewise/areawise basis.

Rural Water Supply Programme in Maharashtra

611. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of issues of Maharashtra State in respect of Rural Water Supply Programme pending approvals with the Union Government as on date;

(b) the present status of such issues and the action taken thereon by Government; and

(c) the amount to be allocated to the State of Maharashtra for Rural Water Supply Scheme in the current financial year and total percentage of its annual outlay to be used for the provision for the maintenance and repairs of water supply scheme in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL: (a) only one issue for increasing the norm for per capita per day supply of drinking water and to make allowance to give 30% private connections is pending in respect of Rural Water Supply Programme in Maharashtra.

(b) The guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme do not provide for private in house connections as large number of villages/habitations have not been provided safe drinking water facilities even through public standposts/ spot sources/hand-pumps. Liberal norms of private connections under Piped Water Supply Schemes can be followed only after the entire unserved/ underserved population is covered as per the existing norms.

(c) The allocation under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme for Maharashtra from 1993-94 is Rs. 54.88 crores Rs. 33.90 crore (normal) &Rs. 20.98 crore (additional). 10% of this allocation can be used for operation and maintenance of water supply schemes in rural areas.

Objectives of I.R.D.P.

612. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the objectives of the I.R.D.P.;

(b) how far its objectives are being achieved;

(c) what are the shortcomings and loopholes identified in its implementatioin;

(d) what steps are proposed for improving the I.R.D.P.;

(e) how many families have so far been covered under the programme;

(f) how many of them have crossed the poverty line; and

(g) whether the family credit plan has yielded better results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) I.R.D.P. is a beneficiary oriented programme. Its objective is to enable selected families in rural areas to cross the poverty line. A family with an annual income of Rs. 11000 or less is considered to be below the poverty line.

(b) As per the results of the latest available round of concurrent evaluation (Jan.—Dec., 89), I.R.D.P. had achieved its objective in so far as 81% of the families surveyed had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3500 and 28% of the surveyed families had crossed the poverty line

of Rs. 6400.

(c) and (d) There is always scope of improvement in the implementation of such a big programme like I.R.D.P. Some important steps taken for improvement are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(e) Since inception i.e. from 1980-81 to 1993-94 (till Dec. 93) 436.95 lakh families have been assisted against the target of 402.10 lakhs families.

(f) According to the third round of concurrent evaluation (Jan.—Dec., 89), 81% families had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3500 and 28% families the poverty line of Rs. 6400.

(g) The objective of Family Credit Plan launched as a pilot project in 50 districts is to ensure higher investment and subsequently higher incremental income through the provision of assistance to more than one member of I.R.D.P. family. The average per family investment under Family Credit Plan was Rs. 11877 as against Rs. 7141 under normal I.R.D.P. during 1991-92.

Statement

Steps taken for improving the I.R.D.P.

1. The monetary ceiling on subsidy was revised upward by Rs. 1000 for each category of beneficiaries with effect from April, 1993. This is expected to facilitate higher investment levels and higher income genetation under I.R.D.P.
2. From 1991-92 Purchase committees in 50% blocks were abolished in every district. Under the new Cash Disbursement Scheme, the beneficiaries are given freedom to purchase assets of their own choice.
3. In order to ensure higher investment and higher incremental income, the pilot project of Family Credit Plan was launched during 1991-92. This scheme has since been implemented on an experimental basis in 2 districts in each State. The Ministry has now decided to extend the operatioin of the scheme to 231 districts where NABARD has its offices.
4. Recognising the importance of establishing proper marketing linkages for I.R.D.P. activities, there is now greater emphasis on setting up District Supply and Marketing Societies (DSMS). So far 34 DSMS have been sanctioned and 22 are already functioning. Similarly, 10 new DSMS (W) are being set up in coordination with UNICEF with emphasis on marketing of DWCRA products.
5. A team of Area Officers is deputed to visit states and give first hand account of existing problems and progress in implementation of the scheme.
6. At the instance of the Ministry, RBI has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. R. Mehta, Deputy Governor to review all aspects of implementation of I.R.D.P. and give its recommendation for improvements therein.

Eighty first Session of Indian Science Congress

613. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Science Congress held its 81st session at Jaipur recently;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions and the number of delegates that attended the session;

(c) the gist of points and recommendations made in the session; and

(d) the gist of points/recommendations which Government have accepted for implementation and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) held its